

#### Amendments to The Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A cylindrical ballistic tracer platform for holding and carrying an integrated tracer element, the tracer platform designed for use with a shotgun shell having a shot holder and propellant, the tracer platform being positioned within the shotgun shell to fill the space between the shot holder and the propellant, the tracer platform having a nose ~~[[,]]~~ and a bottom ~~and a coaxial cavity holding a tracer element, the bottom of the tracer platform~~ having a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant, the tracer platform having the tracer element filling a coaxial cavity having a lower end at the bottom of the tracer platform.
2. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element comprises a cylindrical housing containing pyrotechnic material susceptible to ignition upon burning of the propellant.
3. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 2 wherein the housing of the tracer element further contains a fire-suppressing agent.
4. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer element is selected from the group consisting of electrical material, reflective material, chemiluminescent material, and pyrotechnic material.
5. (Currently Amended) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has a ballistic coefficient ~~substantially~~ equivalent to a shot pellet's ballistic

coefficient.

6. (Currently Amended) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 5 wherein the tracer platform is made from one or more of the materials selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, lead, neoprene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane, rubber, steel, ~~Teflon®~~, polytetrafluoroethylene, and titanium, ~~other metals, and other plastics~~.

7. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform further has a diameter in the range of 0.2 inches to 1.25 inches.

8. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the nose of the tracer platform has a shape selected from the group consisting of flat, conical, and spherical.

9. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has formed therein symmetrical cavities for holding weights for the adjustment of the tracer platform's weight and flight characteristics.

10. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with grooves formed therein.

11. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with symmetrically-positioned fins attached thereto.

12. (Original) The ballistic tracer platform of claim 1 wherein the tracer platform has an outer surface with orifices formed therein.

13. (Currently Amended) A shotgun shell with a tracer for making shot projectiles visible to a shooter comprising:

- (a) a hollow shotgun shell having a lower end and an upper end;
- (b) a base with primer for ignition located inside the lower end of the shotgun

shell;

- (c) propellant positioned proximate to the primer;
- (d) a shot holder holding shot pellets located inside the upper end of the shotgun shell;
- (e) a cylindrical ballistic tracer platform for holding and carrying an integrated tracer element, the tracer platform being positioned inside the shotgun shell to fill the space between the shot holder and the propellant, the tracer platform having a nose~~[[,]]~~ and a bottom ~~and a coaxial cavity holding a tracer element, the bottom of the tracer platform having a generally concave cavity which acts as a gas seal upon ignition of the propellant, the tracer platform having the tracer element filling a coaxial cavity having a lower end at the bottom of the tracer platform.~~

14. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element comprises a cylindrical housing containing pyrotechnic material susceptible to ignition upon burning of the propellant.

15. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the housing of the tracer element further contains a fire-suppressing agent.

16. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the tracer element is selected from the group consisting of electrical material, reflective material, chemiluminescent material, and pyrotechnic material.

17. (Currently Amended) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has a ballistic coefficient ~~substantially~~ equivalent to a shot pellet's ballistic coefficient.

18. (Currently Amended) The shotgun shell of claim 17 wherein the ballistic tracer platform is made from one or more of the materials selected from the group consisting of aluminum, brass, lead, neoprene, nylon, polyethylene, polyurethane, rubber, steel, ~~Teflon®~~, polytetrafluoroethylene, and titanium, ~~other metals, and other plastics~~.

19. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform further has a diameter in the range of 0.2 inches to 1.25 inches.

20. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the nose of the ballistic tracer platform has a shape selected from the group consisting of flat, conical, and spherical.

21. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has formed therein symmetrical cavities for holding weights for the adjustment of the tracer platform's weight and flight characteristics.

22. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with grooves formed therein.

23. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with symmetrically-positioned fins attached thereto.

24. (Original) The shotgun shell of claim 13 wherein the ballistic tracer platform has an outer surface with orifices formed therein.